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TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 3539792
D451

OF THE

STATE OF DESERET.

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, State of Deseret, January 23, 1865.

To the Senate and House of Representatives Convened in General Assembly:

orchards have presented a prospect that has gladdened every heart and caused thanksgivings to ascend to the Great Creator for the abundant fertility which he has bestowed upon our land. Under the benign and heavenly influence of peace, which we have enjoyed to so eminent a degree, our settlements have been extended North and South; they have increased in population, in the conveniences and comforts of life, and in everything that contributes to material wealth; nooks and valleys, and resources of which the people have had no expectation of ever finding in these sterile and forbidding-looking mountains, have been discovered and developed to a very gratifying extent, encouraging our citizens, and causing them to place a higher value upon our country and the advantages which it affords than they were disposed to do upon our first settlement here. With all their apparent sterility, the uninviting nature of their surroundings, and the desolate wastes which stretch themselves for

* Since I last had the pleasure of addressing you, Deseret has continued to rapidly advance in that path of progress and development which she has ever undeviatingly pursued since her first settlement. Possessing in the beginning but few advantages compared with many of her Sister States, and having no glittering treasures to offer as inducements to the ordinary immigrant to settle here, Deseret has, nevertheless, marched steadily onward to the fulfilment of the high destiny anticipated for her. The year which has just passed has been to our citizens a season of peace and prosperity. Bountiful harvests have rewarded the husbandmen for their toil, and our smiling fields and fruitful

hundreds of miles on every side of us, making our position here one of complete isolation, we have become deeply attached to these valleys. Embosomed in the midst of the mighty range of mountains which form the backbone of our continent, they invited us to rest when we wore weary pilgrims, fleeing from heartless and cruel persecution which had sought to destroy us and obliterate our religion from the face of the earth, and, since our residence here, they have been to us all they promised to be—an asylum and secure retreat—a peaceful home for us and the Israel of God who have gathered here. The deplorable events which have transpired in those portions of our country where we formerly resided—the fruits of foul rebellion and the abuse of that liberty which our Fathers bequeathed unto us as a most inestimable and precious legacy—have enabled us to appreciate the seclusion of these mountain fastnesses, and has given Deseret an importance which was but little dreamed of a few years ago.

There has been no change since I last addressed you in the relationship of the State of Deseret to the Parent Government. The Congress of the United States has not yet deemed it proper to admit Deseret into the family of States. In petitioning to be admitted into the Union as a Sovereign State, we were desirous of lightening the expenses of the General Government by bearing our own governmental expenses; this may yet be viewed as an object of sufficient importance to prompt Congress to look favorably upon our request. Indeed, it seems probable that the time is not far distant when we will be requested and solicited to assume the dignity and responsibilities of a Sovereign State among our Sister States in the Union. It has been urged that our population was not sufficient to entitle us to this right; but this can no longer be held as an objection, even if our population had not increased to the

number required under the last apportionment for the election of a member of the House of Representatives of the United States; for the Territory of Nevada, which has recently been released from her condition of Territorial dependence and been offered the robes of sovereignty, did not have, at the time of her admission into the Union as a State, a population to exceed 40,000 souls. In order that every thing may be in readiness when Congress shall recognize our State organization, and to save confusion and trouble when the transition from a Territorial condition to that of a State shall have been fully accomplished, I would respectfully suggest that you enact that the laws now in force in the Territory of Utah be in full force and virtue in law in the State of Deseret.

The progress which is being made in the opening of coal mines—by which coal in increased quantities and of an improved quality is being brought into market—in the erection of handsome and substantial stores and public buildings and commodious and elegant dwellings, in the production of staples and in the advancement of home manufactures of various kinds, is a cause of sincere congratulation. Machinery for the manufacture of woollen and cotton fabrics has been imported and put into successful operation, and I trust that the day is not far distant when our importation of these articles will be comparatively limited.

The Pacific Railroad, which has occupied so large a share of public attention for the past few years, is being forwarded, both East and West, with commendable rapidity. A portion of the route for the road through our State has been surveyed, and it is now ascertained that it can be laid through these mountains without meeting with the difficulties which were anticipated as likely to prove almost insuperable. The Telegraphic wires have already been stretched across the Continent, and have proved

beneficial to our business men and others. By this medium we have been furnished daily with the news from the East and West, and have also been able to communicate with our correspondents and friends, thousands of miles distant, with great ease at any moment. The introduction of this valuable invention into our State has been attended with gratifying results, and is being more highly appreciated every day. By the proper use of these great discoveries of our age—the Railroad and the Telegraph—and by fully availing ourselves of the facilities which they proffer, we can be greatly aided in advancing the interests of our State.

The efforts of our citizens to produce cotton have been crowned with very encouraging success. There have been, and still are, many difficulties to be contended with and overcome before the business of raising cotton can become as remunerative as the raising of cereals in more favorable localities; but the experience gained during the past few years by the citizens of the cotton growing districts will be of incalculable benefit to them in their future operations. The recent accessions of strength which those settlements have received, have had an inspiring effect upon the old settlers there, and they feel that many of the difficulties under which they have heretofore labored are about to be overcome.

The Indian disturbances on the plains, and the precarious nature of the transportation by the route usually travelled from the East, have caused all eyes to be turned in other directions to discover a route which, while promising the safety and certainty of regular communication that the old travelled route does not afford, will, at the same time, not be so expensive as to render it impracticable for the service we want. These requi-

sites we hope will be found in the route to this State by way of the Colorado River. In view of the probable necessity of our being compelled to use and to depend principally upon this route for the purposes of communication and commerce, steps have been taken by the Deseret Mercantile Association to build a warehouse at the head of navigation on the Colorado River. The site selected for the erection of that building is 125 miles distant from St. George. A road is being constructed from the latter point to the warehouse, and companies have been formed to establish settlements at suitable points contiguous to the proposed Landing and on the road leading thereto. When the contemplated measures respecting this route shall have been fully carried out, I think it is not too much to say that its importance to our State will be immense. Sanguine hopes are entertained that when once that route is opened, and traffic established by it, goods can be delivered in Great Salt Lake City as cheap, if not cheaper, than by any other present travelled route. Besides, its proximity to our Southern settlements gives it one great advantage over every other route, viz.: that to reach the landing at the head of navigation we are required to go very little beyond the limits of our own State. The development and benefits which will attend this traffic and intercourse at those Settlements which are now viewed as somewhat remote and out of the way, can be readily understood. In view of these prospects the citizens of the Southern portion of our State are hopeful for the future, and they already anticipate the beneficial results which will follow the adoption of this route.

May Heaven's blessings rest down upon your deliberations.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

